

REMARKS

Claims 4, 7, 9-11, 33 and 38 presently appear in this case. Claims 16-26 and 37 had been withdrawn from consideration. In the Advisory Action of March 17, 2006, claims 4 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than filing an appeal brief in this case, applicants have opted to accept the allowability of claims 4 and 7 so as to place the case into condition for allowance. Claim 38, from which both claims 4 and 7 depend, has now been amended to specify that the linker is either the specific linker of claim 4 or the specific linker of claim 7. Accordingly, claim 38 should now be allowable for the same reasons that claims 4 and 7 have been found to be allowable. Other claims previously dependent from claim 38 but not specifically related to the linker remain in the case and should be allowable for the same reason that claim 38 is now allowable.

The claims that had previously been withdrawn from consideration have now been deleted without prejudice toward

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the continuation of prosecution thereof in a divisional application.

The present amendment should be entered in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.111(a)(2)(i)(B) and (C) as the present reply is clearly limited to adopting a suggestion of the examiner and placing the application into condition for allowance. The examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 7 would be allowable if placed in independent form and that is effectively what the present amendment does.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment and allowance of all the present claims now present in the case are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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